

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

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### **County Receives \$4 Million Energy Conservation Grant**

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today accepted more than \$4 million in federal stimulus funding for energy conservation, which will enable the County to reduce its energy consumption and implement an innovative program for homeowners.

“Every watt of energy we conserve means taxpayers save money, and moves us toward a more flexible and dependable energy system,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. “These federal funds will be put to good use in both County government and for implementing a program for homeowners to make affordable energy improvements.”

The funding comes through the federal government’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, which was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The funding will allow for the installation of photovoltaic solar panels at several County buildings, including the new High Desert Government Center, now under construction in Hesperia. Because more roof area is needed to generate the necessary electricity, the project will include construction of carports, which will also provide shaded parking.

Several County buildings will receive efficiency upgrades and retrofits in their heating and air conditioning systems. The Environmental Impact Report for the County’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan will also be concluded with the funding.

The grant will also allow the County to implement a program under Assembly Bill 811, which permits local governments to designate areas where home and business owners can receive low-interest financing to install permanent energy efficiency improvements and then pay for them over the long term through an annual property assessment.